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NEWPORT (SALOP) URBAN DISTRICT.

A N N U A L R E P O R T

- of the -

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for

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INTERIM REPORT OF THE HEALTH AND SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE URBAN DISTRICT OF NEWPORT (SALOP) FOR THE YEAR 1946.

Again the Ministry of Health has found it expedient to retain the form of Annual Report as submitted from the beginning of the War and, this being so, an interim survey of the health and sanitary circumstances of your area is given herein.

Infectious Diseases. During the twelve months no epidemic of infectious disease has been experienced. There has been a rise in the number of cases of Scarlet Fever but this has been limited - averaging about one case per month. Few cases of Measles or Whooping Cough have been brought to notice and, again, there has been no case of Diphtheria.

Vital Statistics. These show that while the Birth Rate is below that generally prevailing, there is a more than corresponding fall in the Death Returns in the same group. The General Death Rate, however, is higher than that of England and Wales. The total on the Tuberculosis Register remains practically stationary and from this disease no deaths have been recorded.

The Authority has given much time and consideration to the provision of homes for those in need and the applicants for these have had every consideration of their cases under an impartial points system. Perhaps of more domestic character and interest has been that directed to the Ambulance Service which is maintained on a voluntary basis.

The Medical Officer of Health has during the course of the year enjoyed the full co-operation of your Sanitary Inspector and the Executive Officer and he takes this opportunity of thanking them for this.

SECTION A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres)	768
Registrar General's Estimate of Resident Population	3661
Number of Inhabited Houses (end of 1946) according to Rate Books	977
Sum represented by One Penny Rate.. ...	£76
Persons per acre (calculated on population)	4.8

POPULATION AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

The Registrar General's estimate of population shows that there has been a slight rise. This is in keeping with the present trend of general increase locally and the town might well attract residentially.

The Council is aware of the need to encourage social amenities and, with this in view, have considered the provision of additional playing space for children. A local football team has been formed in the past year and has made a promising start.

In certain quarters it has been felt that there is room for better hall accommodation and it is hoped that, with the advent of the New Health Act, provision will be made for a Health Centre, pleasing to the aesthete and holding a prominent place in the Town.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS.

		M.	F.	Total
Live Births	Legitimate	31	27	58
	Illegitimate	3	2	5
	Totals:	34	29	63

Birth rate per 1000 estimated population 17.2
Birth rate per 1000 estimated population (England and Wales)... ... ... 19.1

		M	F	Total
Still Births	Legitimate	1	-	1
	Illegitimate	-	-	-
	Totals:	1	-	1

Rate per 1000 total (live and still) births ... 15.6

Deaths:

	M	F	Total
Total number of Deaths	30	23	53

Death rate per 1000 of estimated population ... 14.5

Death rate per 1000 of estimated population (England and Wales) 11.5

Infantile Mortality:

All Infants per 1000 live births 15.9
All Infants per 1000 live births (England & Wales) 43
Legitimate Infants per 1000 live legitimate births -
Illegitimate Infants per 1000 live illegitimate births: 200

Total number of Infant Deaths	M	F
Legitimate	-	-
Illegitimate	1	-
Total:	1	-

Deaths from:

Cancer (all ages)	10
Measles (all ages)	-
Whooping Cough (all ages)	-
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	-

Maternity Mortality: Under this heading there were no deaths.

Chief Causes of Death:

Tuberculosis (all forms)	-
Cancer	10
Intra Cranial Vascular Lesions	4
Heart Disease and Circulatory Disturbances ...	19
Respiratory Diseases	5
Nephritis	2
Premature Births and Congenital Malformations ..	-
Violence	1
Abdominal Disease	3
Influenza	3

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION FOR HEALTH SERVICES IN DISTRICT.

Ambulance:

The ambulance continues to function on a voluntary basis, is under local supervision and serves the Town and its

environs. The report of this voluntary committee shows that they are able to act throughout the twenty four hours and that the constant demands made have been more tham amply met. By means of organised entertainments a balance of money has been secured and it is hoped that in time it will be possible to provide a more modern and uptodate carriage for the benefit of the patients. The servicing of the scheme is voluntary both for drivers and attendants the latter of whom form an essential unit for each journey. During the Year the County Authority has been exploring the formation of a single enlarged unit which will arise when that Authority takes over the control of ambulance services to meet the needs of the New Health Act. When this scheme is fully formed it is expected that there will be changes with a closer liaison over larger areas of the County.

Mortuary Service.

As has been said in earlier Reports the Town is well served in this department. Almost all that could be desired is provided and the whole serves as a model of what can be achieved from improvisation at a moderate cost.

SECTION C.

Vermin Control and Disinfestation.

The Sanitary Inspector reports that in association with the County Authority a drive has been made on infestation of the sewer system. After a course of prebaiting, poison was used at the one manhole which required attention.
A regular control at the tipping centre has continued to be practised.
In the homes there have been few complaints brought to notice of the Authority but it is known that more could be said by the tenants. Among other places mentioned as being suffers have been central slaughter house, the buffer food centre store and a row of private houses - Springfield Terrace.
No complaint of bug infestation has been made and there has been no need for disinfestation.

Scavenging.

A weekly collection of refuse has been the aim and this has been generally well maintained. A recent advance has been the purchase of a motor vehicle and this has improved the service. Any criticism which might be offered to this is the high loading and the inadequate covering - a very necessary adjunct to hygiene.
Steps have been taken to accelerate collection by the insistence on a uniform dustbin in good condition at each house. The Sanitary Inspector reports satisfaction in the progress made but says he has been handicapped by the difficulty in securing such receptacles.

At the Tipping Centre the control has been satisfactory.

Water Supplies.

This has been a year of satisfactory working at the main pumping station. No difficulties have arisen and progress has been smooth.

Except to meet the demands of the new estate at Victoria Park no major extension of mains has been made but the Council has in mind the provision of enlarged storage facilities. To provide for this will be a considerable undertaking.

As Newport is itself sufficient in water to maintain itself

a new boring is in contemplation and the work of exploring this project is in progress. Closely adjacent to the main bore hole there is a reserve supply of doubtful quality and as soon as service from the new bore is available this will be done away with.

Constantly throughout the year samples have been submitted to the analyst and his reports have been consistently satisfactory. The samples are taken of the water in the raw state. Chlorination is in practice and the plant for this works well.

In the twelve months the service for minor repairs to households has been well maintained and except at times of stress of wintry weather no difficulties or major breakdowns have been experienced.

The number of homes dependent on stand pipes remains unaltered

In the Summer a meeting of all authorities of the North East Salop Area was held to consider the amalgamation of local authority undertakings into an enlarged joint water board. This plan was received favourably, a Consultation Engineer was appointed and he was asked, in conjunction with local technicians, to prepare plans and submit other relevant details for the working of this scheme.

It is expected that a further meeting will be held early in the incoming year. It has to be remembered in this connection that this Authority is one of the few able to give an abundant supply to all its residents and that the same functions at a relatively low cost. The advantages of such amalgamation, therefore, are not so obvious here as in other adjacent districts.

Sewer and Sewerage main works.

Conditions have remained unchanged at the outfalls but as plans for new works have been passed to the Ministry of Health for their criticism and approval it is hoped that in a short time it will be possible to report progress in the direction of more economic and hygienic methods.
To meet the needs of new housing, extensions have been laid but otherwise no major changes have been undertaken.
In general maintenance, no difficulties have been experienced.
The problem of Forton, closely connected to the Town and forming an immediate suburb and under the authority of Staffordshire, has still to be solved. This considerable district inadequarely sewered might very easily form part of the local scheme and it is to be hoped that under the present county review, it will be shown that this part should be related with this Authority at least for these purposes.
The Public Lavatories are modern and well maintained. Never-the-less from observation it has been seen that the requirements of this district have no relationship to the size of the permanent population. This Town serves as a suitable stopping place for many motor coaches on a very busy road and with the great influx of these, particularly in the summer months, the insufficiency of lavatory accommodation is manifest. Steps should be taken to relieve this position and to stop nuisances being caused in yards and passages.

SECTION D.

Housing general.

There has been a considerable number of applicants for new homes amounting to about 200 in all and while this figure compares favourably with the of the immediate neighbourhood these applications have still to be met. In some measure

to deal with this problem and to give each family a home of good mordern quality the Council has in progress the building of some 30 houses on Victoria Park. At the end of the year such advance had been made that there were hopes that early in 1947 several homes would be ready for occupation. When the full scheme at Victoria Park has been completed 64 new houses will have been added to the District. In addition to the above steps have been taken to build six three-bedroomed houses at Avenue Road South.

The above is the immediate planning of the Authority and although more houses are required those planned will do something to relieve the position. When the full housing programme has been completed some 200 houses will have been added.

No Temporary Housing Scheme has been adopted. Under private enterprise one house only of the bungalow type has been constructed and completed in the year.

No difficulties have been met with in the way of squatter settlers but there are two caravan users established in the Area, unlicensed.

Overcrowding has not been an acute problem and such cases as have been noticed have been brought to light mainly through the channels of the housing application forms.

It has not been found expedient to condemn any property in the period. In the matter of repairs only the most essential have been completed and there remains much maintenance work outstanding. This will remain so until such time as the shortage of labour and material has been overcome.

SECTION E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk and Dairies.

Number of Tuberculin Tested Producers ...	Nil
Number of Accredited Producers	Nil
Number of Pasteurisation Licenses ...	Nil
Total number of Register (Cowkeepers and Dairies)	8

It has been noticed that locally there have been few complaints arising from the quality and keeping powers of this product. Nevertheless there is room for much improvement in the standards of cowsheds and dairies. This applies to small keepers particularly. Forms of standards required are in the hands of your Sanitary Inspector and every effort should be made to have these followed.

Meat and Other Foods.

The District and its surrounds continues to be served from the Central Abattoir in the town. This is under the control of your Officer. In the matter of supervision he has been relieved by help given from the adjacent Authorities of Shifnal and Wellington Rural Districts. This help is mainly directed to evening and night work.

It has not been decided what will be the position relative to meet the needs of killing locally but if meat is to be continued to be supplied from a local centre steps must be taken to provide accommodation suited to modern hygienic requirements.

At present the building is cramped in space, does not conform to sanitary needs and allows for little consideration of the animals.

The Sanitary Inspector reports that the quantity of casualty meat brought to his notice has greatly decreased.

The following is a table of meat condemned, including casualty carcases:

26¾ cattle, 21 calves, 37½ sheep, 8 pigs.

Weight of meat condemned	6 tons	9 cwts	10 lbs
Weight of offal condemned	3 tons	11 cwts	25 lbs

Other foods condemned:

68 tins meat	1 Ham
20 tins fish	20 Kippers
33 tins vegetables	1 cwt 93 lbs Soyaghette
27 tins milk	120 Pork pies
1 tin fruit	3½ lbs Sausages
1 tin jam	8 Packets pastry

Factories.

The Sanitary accommodation and cleanliness of Factories have been well maintained.
In one case complaints have been received respecting a nuisance from smoke.
It is hoped that in future care will be taken in the selection of sites for Factories.
A full report on these matters will be made in the next year's Report.

SECTION F.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND ALLIED DISEASES.

The following table gives the number of cases of infectious diseases, together with the number of deaths from such:

Diseases	Cases Notified 1946	Cases Notified 1945	Deaths
Scarlet Fever	13	5	-
Whooping Cough	12	64	-
Measles	7	26	-
Pneumonia	6	5	-
Dysentery	1	-	-
Erysipelas	1	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	3	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-

INCIDENCE OF DISEASE IN THE VARIOUS AGE GROUPS.

Years	Scarlet Fever Male	Scarlet Fever Female	Whooping Cough Male	Whooping Cough Female	Measles Male	Measles Female
0	-	-	1	-	-	1
1	-	-	-	2	-	-
3	1	1	1	3	2	2
5	3	5	1	3	1	1
10	-	-	-	-	-	-
15	2	1	1	-	-	-
25	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	6	7	4	8	3	4

Years	Pneumonia Male	Pneumonia Female	Erysipelas Male	Erysipelas Female	Dysentery Male	Dysentery Female
0	-	-	-	-	-	-
5	-	1	-	-	-	-
15	1	-	1	-	-	-
45	2	2	-	-	-	-
65	-	-	-	-	1	-
Totals	3	3	1	-	1	-

Scabies.

The urgency of this problem has disappeared and it is felt that in the incoming year there will be little need to continue the use of the local centre. It will be remembered that this was opened to provide against what were in effect wartime emergencies- due to congestion and overcrowding in the home. With the closure, treatment will be carried out in the homes and it may be found that this will suffice.

During the Year the following is the total treated for scabies:-

148 patients involving 345 treatments.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

The Annual Return submitted to the Ministry of Health for the Period ending December 31st. 1946 was as follows:-

	Age under 1 yr.	Age under 5 years but over 1 year.	5 years and over but under 15 yrs.	Total
Children Immunised	3	132	273	408
Child Population		321	509	830
Percentage Immunised		42%	53%	

The clinical control of this continues under the County Authority while the records and reports are made from the local Office. Much has been done to establish a competent system of filing and many loopholes have been closed in the follow-up of movement of infants and children.

Tuberculosis.

The number of notified cases on the Register at December 31st. 1946 and the comparative figures for 1945 and 1944 are as follows:-

	Males		Females		Total
	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	
1946	10	14	5	22	51
1945	9	12	5	23	49
1944	9	12	8	23	52

New Cases

1 Pulmonary 2 Non-Pulmonary Total 3

Death Rates

	England and Wales.
Death Rate from Pulmonary Tuberculosis per 1000 population England and Wales ...	.248
Death Rate from Non- Pulmonary Tuberculosis per 1000 population	.080
Total Death Rate (all form)	.328

There were no deaths from Pulmonary and none from the Non-Pulmonary Form of this Disease.

New Cases and Mortality 1946.

New Cases.

Age Group	Respiratory		Non - Respiratory	
	Male	Female	Male	Female.
0-5	-	-	-	-
5-15	-	-	2	-
15-25	-	-	-	-
25-35	1	-	-	-
35-45	-	-	-	-
Total	1	-	2	-

Cancer.

The number of deaths from Cancer in 1946 was 10 (of these 6 were males and 4 females)

Death Rate per 1,000,000 living	England and Wales
2731	1768.

W.A.M.STEWART.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

8th August, 1947.